Contract Farming Law

3722. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to frame a Contract Farming Law to regulate the working conditions of the farm labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed law is likely to be put in place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to enact a separate law titled "Contract Farming Law" to regulate the working conditions of the Farm Labour. However, in the wake of economic liberalisation, the Government have undertaken a review of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The amendments which may be effected in the said Act have not been finalized. Therefore, it is premature to state when the amendment would be carried out.

Policy for rain fed farming

3723. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a comprehensive policy for rainfed farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a policy would be in place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Government of India have formulated a comprehensive National Agriculture Policy in July, 2000. It includes policy for rainfed farming in the country.

(b) The National Agriculture Policy, 2000, as it pertains to rainfed farming, provides :

- Integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas will be promoted by conservation of rain water by vegetative measures on watershed basis and augmentation of biomass production through agro and farm forestry with the involvement of the watershed community.
- All spatial components of a watershed, *i.e.* arable land, non-arable and drainage lines will be treated as one geo-hydrological entity.
- Management of grazing land will receive greater attention for augmenting availability of animal feed and fodder.

A long-term perspective plan for sustainable rainfed agriculture through watershed approach will be vigorously pursued for development of two thirds of India's cropped area which is dependent on rains.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of tissue culture

3724. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally sponsored schemes through which tissue culture is being promoted in different States;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in that regard in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details of major fruit crops in that State indentified for tissue culture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans, under which the State Governments can take up various programmes for development as per their felt needs and requirements. Establishment of tissue culture units in the public as well as private sector is one of the components of the scheme.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Macro Management Scheme of the Government, Orissa has covered 28.16 hectares under tissue culture banana at an expenditure of Rs. 8.45 lakhs during 2001-02 and 2002-03. A sum of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been earmarked for covering 100 hectares under tissue culture banana during the year 2003-04.

Production, storage, import/export of wheat, sugar, rice and pulses

†3725. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production, consumption and surplus of wheat, sugar, rice and pulses in various States of the country during the last three years;

(b) the total import and export of wheat, sugar, rice and pulses during the above period;

(c) the total stock of wheat, sugar, rice and pulses in the country as on 31st March, 2003; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.